

## Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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sy-li Vse-lev n, pl sylis [Susu sili, lit., elephant] (1974): the monetary unit of Guinea from 1972 to 1986

syl-la-bary \\si-lo-iber-e\ n. pl -bar-ies [NI. syllabarnam, fr. 1 syllaba syllable] (1586): a table or listing of syllables; specif: a series or set of written characters each one of which is used to represent a syllable

syl-lab-ic \so-la-bik\ adj [L.I. syllabicus, Ir. Gk syllabikos, Ir. syllabic syllable] (1728) 1: constituting a syllable or the nucleus of a syllable: u: not accompanied in the same syllable by a vowel (a ~ consonant) b: having vowel quality more prominent than that of another vowel in the syllable (the first vowel of a falling diphthong, as  $\langle 0 \rangle$  in  $\langle 0 1 \rangle$ , is  $\langle 0 \rangle$ 2: of, relating to, or denoting syllables (~ accent) 3: characterize 1 by distinct enunciation or separation of syllables 4: of, relating to, or constituting a type of verse distinguished primarily by count of sylla bles rather than by rhythmical arrangement of accents or quantities syl-lab-i-cal-ly \-bi-l (>-)lc\ adv

2syllabic n (1880); a syllabic character or sound

syl-lab-i-cate \so-la-bo-,kat\ vi -cat-ed; -cat-ing (ca 1654); SYLLAB

syl-lab-i-ca-tion \sa-, la-ba-'kā-shan\ n (15c): the act, process, or method of forming or dividing words into syllables

syl-la-bic-i-ty \si-la-bi-so-te\ n (1933); the state of being or the power of forming a syllable syl-lab-i-fi-ca-tion \sp-,la-bp-fo/kā-shən\ n (1838): SYLLABICATION

syl-lab-i-fy \so-la-bo-,fi\ vi -fied; -fy-ing [L syllaba syllable] (ca. 1859): to form or divide into syllables

'syl-la-ble \'si-la-bal\ n [ME. fr MF sillabe, fr. I. syllaba, fr. Gk syllabe, fi syllambanein to gather together, fr. syn- + lambanein to take more at LATCH] (14c) 1: a unit of spoken language that is next bigger than a speech sound and consists of one or more vowel sounds alone or of a syllabic consonant alone or of either with one or more consonant sounds preceding or following 2: one or more letters (as syl, la, and ble) in a word (as syl-la-ble) usu, set off from the rest of the word by a centered dot or a hyphen and roughly corresponding to the syllables of spoken language and treated as helps to pronunciation or as guides to placing hyphens at the end of a line 3: the smallest conceivable ex-

pression or unit of something: JOT 4: SOL-FA SYLLABLES

syllable vt syl-la-bled; syl-la-bling \-b(2-)lin\ (15c) 1: to give a number or arrangement of syllables to (a word or verse) 2: to express

or utter in or as if in syllables

syl-la-bub \'si-la-ibab\ n [origin unknown] (ca. 1537) 1: a drink made by curdling milk or cream with an acid beverage (as wine or cider) 2: a sweetened drink or topping made of milk or cream beaten with wine or liquor and sometimes further thickened with gelatin and served as a dessert

syl-la-bus \-bes\ n. pl -bi \-,bi. -,be\ or -bus-es [LL. alter. of L. sillybus label for a book, fr. Gk sillybos] (ca. 1656) 1: a summary outline of a discourse, treatise, or course of study or of examination requirements

2: HEADNOTE 2

syl-lep-sis \so-lep-sos\ n, pl -lep-ses \-, sez\ [L, fr. Gk syllepsis, fr. syllambanein] (ca. 1550) 1: the use of a word to modify or govern syntactically two or sometimes more words with only one of which it formally agrees in gender, number, or case 2: the use of a word in the same grammatical relation to two adjacent words in the context with one literal and the other metaphorical in sense - syl-lep-tic \-'lep-tik\

syl-lo-gism \'si-la-ji-com\ n [ME silogisme, fr. MF, fr. L syllogismus fr Gk syllogismos, fr. syllogizesthai to syllogize, fr. syn- + logizesthai to calculate, fr. logos reckoning, word - more at LEGEND] (14c) 1: a deductive scheme of a formal argument consisting of a major and a minor premise and a conclusion (as in "every virtue is laudable; kindness is a virtue; therefore kindness is laudable") 2: a subtle, specious. or crafty argument 3: deductive reasoning - syl-lo-gis-tic \si-lo-'jis-tik\ adj — syl-lo-gis-ti-cal-ly \-ti-k(>-)le\ adv

syl-lo-gist \'si-lo-jist\ n (1799); one who applies or is skilled in syllo-

syl-lo-gize \'si-lo-giz\ vb -gized; -giz-ing [ME sylogysen, fr. I.I. syllogizare, fr. Gk syllogizesthai] vi (15c): to reason by means of syllogisms ~ vi: to deduce by syllogism (~s moral laws)

sylph \'silf\ n [NL sylphus] (1657) 1: an elemental being in the theory of Paracelsus that inhabits air 2: a slender graceful woman or girl sylph·like \'sil-,flik\ adj

sylph-id \'sil-fad\ n (1680): a young or diminutive sylph

sylva, sylviculture war of SILVA, SILVICULTURE

Isyl-van \'sil-van\ n (1565); one that frequents groves or woods 2sylvan adj [ML silvanus, sylvanus, fr. L silva, sylva wood] (ca. 1583) 1 a: living or located in the woods or forest b: of, relating to, or characteristic of the woods or forest 2 a: made, shaped, or formed of woods or trees b: abounding in woods, groves, or trees: WOODED

syl-va-nite \'sil-v>-,nit\ n [F sylvanite, fr. NL sylvanium tellurium, fr. Transylvania, region in Romania] (1796): a mineral that is a gold silver telluride and often occurs in crystals resembling written characsyl-vat-ic \sil-\va-tik\ adj [L silvaticus of the woods, wild ... more at

SAVAGE] (1661) 1: SYLVAN (~ rodents) 2: occurring in or affecting wild animals (~ diseases)

syl-vite \'sil-,vit\ also syl-vine \-,ven\ n [alter. of sylvine, Tr. F. fr. NI. sal digestivus Sylvii digestive salt of Sylvius, fr. Sylvius latinized name of Jacques Dubois †1555 Fr. physician] (1868): a mineral that is a natural potassium chloride and occurs in colorless cubes or crystalime masses sym- - sec syn.

sym-bi-ont \sim-be-ant\ n [prob. fr. G, modif. of Gk symbiount-, symbion, prp. of symbioun] (1887): an organism living in symbiosis:

esp: the smaller member of a symbiotic pair

sym-bl-o-als \sim-be-'o-ses, -bi-\ n, pl -bl-o-ses \-, sez\ [NL, fr. G Symbiose, fr. Gk symbiosis state of living together, fr. symbioun to live together, fr. symbios living together, fr. sym- + blos life more at QUICK] (1622) 1: the living together in more or less intimate association or close union of two dissimilar organisms 2: the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in a mutually beneficial relationship; esp: MUTUALISM 3: a cooperative relationship (as between two persons or groups) (the ~ ... between the resident population and the immigrants John Geipel - sym-bi-ot-ic \- a-tik \ adj - sym-biot-i-cal-ly \-ti-k(>-)|c\ adv

sym-bi-ote Vsim-be-jot, -ibi-\ n [F, ft Gk symbiotes companion, fr symbiour to live together] (ca. 1909); SYMBIONI

Isym-bol \'sim-bəl\ n [in sense 1, fr 11 symbolum, fr, LGk symbolon fr. Gk. token, sign: in other senses fr 1. symbolum token, sign, symbol fi Gk symbolon, lit., token of identity verified by comparing its other half, fr symballein to throw together, compare, fr syn+ ballein to more at DEVIL] (15c) 1: an authoritative summary of faith or doctrine: CREED 2: something that stands for or suggests some. thing else by reason of relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance; esp: a visible sign of something invisible (the lion is a ~ of courage) 3: an arbitrary or conventional sign used in writ. ing or printing relating to a particular field to represent operations. quantities, elements, relations, or qualities 4: an object or act representing something in the unconscious mind that has been repressed (phallic ~s) 5: an act, sound, or object having cultural significance and the capacity to excite or objectify a response

2symbol vb -boled or -bolled; -bol-ing or -bol-ling (1832): SYMBOL

sym-bol-ic \sim-ba-lik\ also sym-bol-i-cal \-li-kal\ adj (1610) 1 a : using, employing, or exhibiting a symbol b: consisting of or proceeding by means of symbols 2: of, relating to, or constituting a symbol 3: characterized by or terminating in symbols (~ thinking) 4: characterized by symbolism (a ~ dance) - sym-bol-i-cal-ly \-lik(2-)le\ adv

symbolic logic n (1856): a science of developing and representing logical principles by means of a formalized system consisting of primitive symbols, combinations of these symbols, axioms, and rules of inference

sym-bol-ise Brit var of SYMBOLIZE

sym-bol-ism \'sim-ba-ili-zam\ n (1654) 1: the art or practice of using symbols esp. by investing things with a symbolic meaning or by expressing the invisible or intangible by means of visible or sensuous representations: as a: artistic imitation or invention that is a method of revealing or suggesting immaterial, ideal, or otherwise intangible truth or states b: the use of conventional or traditional signs in the representation of divine beings and spirits 2: a system of symbols or

sym-bol-ist \'sim-bo-list\ n (1812) 1: one who employs symbols or symbolism 2: one skilled in the interpretation or explication of symbols 3: one of a group of writers and artists in France after 1880 reacting against realism, concerning themselves with general truths instead of actualities, exalting the metaphysical and the mysterious, and aiming to unify and blend the arts and the functions of the senses

- symbolist adj

sym-bol-is-tic \isim-bo-'lis-tik\ adj (ca. 1864): SYMBOLIC

sym-bol-i-za-tion \sim-bo-lo-'za-shon\ n (1603) 1: an act or instance of symbolizing 2: the human capacity to develop a system of meaningful symbols

sym-bof-ize \'sim-bo-diz\\ vb -ized; -iz-ing vt (1603) 1: to serve as a symbol of 2: to represent, express, or identify by a symbol  $\sim vi$ : to use symbols or symbolism — sym-bol-iz-er n

sym-bol-o-gy \sim-ba-la-je\ n, pl -gies [symbol + -logy] (1840) 1 : the art of expression by symbols 2: the study or interpretation of

symbols 3: a system of symbols

sym-met-al-lism  $(\cdot,)$ si(m)-'me-t'l-,1-zəm $(n \mid syn-+-metallism \mid as in$ bimetallism)] (ca. 1895); a system of coinage in which the unit of currency consists of a particular weight of an alloy of two or more metals sym-met-ri-cal \sa-'me-tri-kal\ or sym-met-ric \-trik\ adj (1751) 1 : having, involving, or exhibiting symmetry 2: having corresponding points whose connecting lines are bisected by a given point or perpendicularly bisected by a given line or plane (~ curves) 3 symmetric : being such that the terms or variables may be interchanged without altering the value, character, or truth (symmetric equations) (R is a symmetric relation if aRb implies bRa> 4 a: capable of division by a longitudinal plane into similar halves (~ plant parts) b: having the same number of members in each whorl of floral leaves (~ flowers) 5 : affecting corresponding parts simultaneously and similarly (~ rash) 6: exhibiting symmetry in a structural formula, esp: being a derivative with groups substituted symmetrically in the molecule - symmet-ri-cal-ly \-tri-k(>-)le\ adv — sym-met-ri-cal-ness \-kəl-nəs\ n symmetric group n (1897): a permutation group that is composed of all of the permutations of n things

symmetric matrix n (ca. 1949): a matrix that is its own transpose sym-me-trize \'si-ma-,triz\ vt -trized; -triz-ing (1796) : to make symmetrical — sym-me-tri-za-tion \si-mo-tro-'za-shon\ n

sym-me-try \'si-mo-tre\ n, pl -tries [L symmetria, fr. Gk, fr. symmetras symmetrical, fr. syn- + metron measure - more at MEASURE] (1541) 1 : balanced proportions; also : beauty of form arising from balanced proportions 2: the property of being symmetrical; esp: correspondence in size, shape, and relative position of parts on opposite sides of a dividing line or median plane or about a center or axis - compare BILATERAL SYMMETRY, RADIAL SYMMETRY 3: a rigid motion of a geometric figure that determines a one-to-one mapping onto itself 4: the property of remaining invariant under certain changes (as of orientation in space, of the sign of the electric charge, of parity, or of the direction of time flow) -- used of physical phenomena and of equations describing them

sympath- or sympatho- comb form [ISV, fr. sympathetic]: sympathetic nerve (sympatholytic)

sym-pa-thec-to-my \sim-pa-'thck-ta-me\ n, pl -mies [ISV] (1900) : surgical interruption of sympathetic nerve pathways - sym-pathec-to-mized \-,mizd\ adj laym-pa-thet-ic \sim-pa-the-tik\ adj [NL sympatheticus, fr. L sympathia sympathy] (1644) 1: existing or operating through an affinity.

interdependence, or mutual association 2 a: not discordant or antagonistic b: appropriate to one's mood, inclinations, or disposition c: marked by kindly or pleased appreciation 3: given to, marked by or arising from sympathy, compassion, friendliness, and sensitivity to others' emotions (a ~ gesture) 4: favorably inclined: APPROVING (not ~ to the idea) 5 a: showing empathy b: arousing sympathy or compassion (a ~ role in the play) 6 a: of or relating to the sympathetic nervous system b: mediated by or acting on the sympathetic nerves 7: relating to musical tones produced by sympathetic vibra-

tion or to strings so tuned as 10 sc sym-pa-thet-i-cal-ly \-ti-k(5-)|e\ ad 2sympathetic n (1808); a sympath NERVOUS SYNTEM

sympathetic magic n (1905): mag person or thing can be supernaturall object representing it

sympathetic nervous system n (ca nervous system that contains chief? depress secretion, decrease the tone a and increase heart rate - - compare P/ sympathetic strike n (1895): SIMP sympathetic vibration n (1898): by the vibrations of exactly the same sym-pa-thin \'sim-pa-than\ n [ISV] nephrine) that is secreted by sympa chemical mediator

sym-pa-thise chiefly Brit var of SYMP/ sym-pa-thize \'sim-pa-,thiz\ vi -thiz keeping, accord, or harmony 2: to to share in suffering or grief: COM ble); also: to express such sympathy ally (~ with a proposal) -symipasym-pa-tho-lyt-ic \sim-pa-tho-h-th oppose the physiological results of s sympathomimetic drugs sympath sym-pa-tho-mi-met-ic \-ma-me-tik, lating sympathetic nervous action i thomimetic n

sym-pa-thy \'sim-pa-the\ n. pl -thie: fr. sympathes having common feeling feelings, emotion, experience - mo affinity, association, or relationship ! whatever affects one similarly affects susceptibility or a condition brought in action or effect 2 a: inclination or intellectual accord b: feeling support (republican sympathies) 3 into or sharing the feelings or intere mental state brought about by such 4: the correlation existing between

their vibrational energy to one anot SEC ATTRACTION, PITY sympathy strike n (1912): a strike

rect grievance against their own em aid usu, another group of workers on sym-pat-ric \sim-pa-trik\ adj [synfather — more at FATHER] (ca. 190 specif: occupying the same range w breeding (~ species) — compare \-tri-k(>-)le\ adv - - sym.pat.ry \'sin sym-pet-al-ous \(,)sim-'pe-t'l-as\ aa
sym-pet-aly \-t'l-e, 'sim-,\ n

sym-phon-ic \sim-'fa-nik\ adj (1856 2: relating to or having the form or sic 3: suggestive of a symphon themes, or harmonious arrangement

ly \-ni-k(>-)le\ adv

symphonic poem n (1873); an extension for symphony orchestra usu. freer in t sym-pho-ni-ous \sim-'fo-ne-as\ adj : HARMONIOUS - sym-pho-ni-ous-ly sym-pho-nist \'sim(p)-fə-nist\\ n (176 orchestra 2: a composer of sympho sym-pho-ny \-ne\ n, pl -nies [Mf. sy fr. Gk symphonia, fr. symphonos conc voice, sound — more at BAN] (15c): RITORNELLO 1 b: SINFONIA 1 c sonata for symphony orchestra (2) organ) resembling such a symphony sonance or harmony of color (as in a CHESTRA b: a symphony orchestra harmonious complexity or variety suf symphony orchestra n (ca. 1881): : ercussion that plavs symphonic ym-phy-se-al \sim(p)-fa-'se-al\ also [Gk symphyse-, symphysis symphysis (constituting a symphysis sym-phy-sis \'sim(p)-fo-sos\ n. pl-ph

growing together, fr. symphyesthal to to make grow, bring forth more at or more or less movable articulation plane of the body 2: an articulation connected by pads of fibrous cartilag-**\$ym-po-di-al** \sim-'pō-dē-əl\ *adj* [Ni formed from secondary axes, fr. Gi-•PODIUM] (1875): having or involvi main axis from successive secondary #ym-po-si-arch \sim-'po-zē-jark\ # symposium + -archos -arch] (1603): sium

Sym-po-si-ast \-ze-,ast. -ost\ n [Gk s) Posium, fr. symposion] (ca. 1656): a c sim-po-sium \sim-po-ze-əm also -zh or -siums [L, fr. Gk symposion, fr. sy-+ pinein to drink — more at POTABLE (as after a banquet in ancient Greece 4 a social gathering at which there is I formal meeting at which several speci topic or on related topics - compare **Opinions on a subject; esp:** one publi

**Tymp-tom** \\\\\\\sim(p)-tom\\\\n\\[LL\\\\\min\] tomat-, symptoma happening, attiti